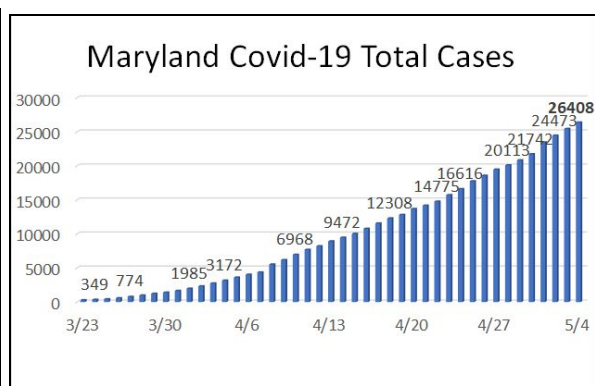
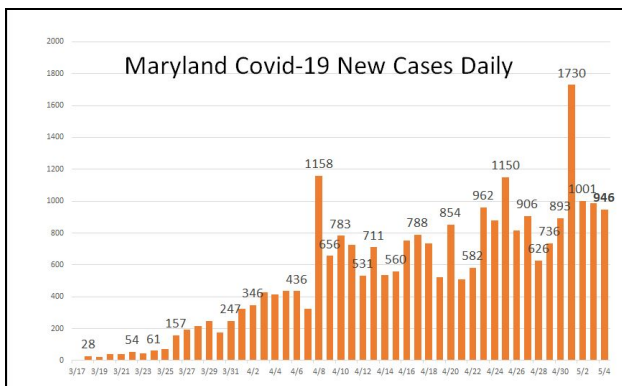
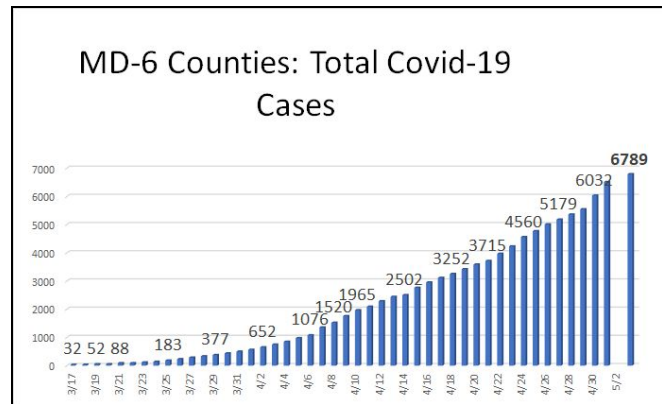
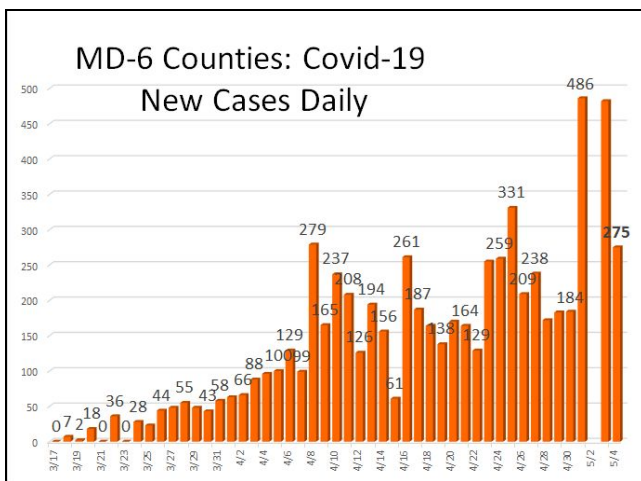
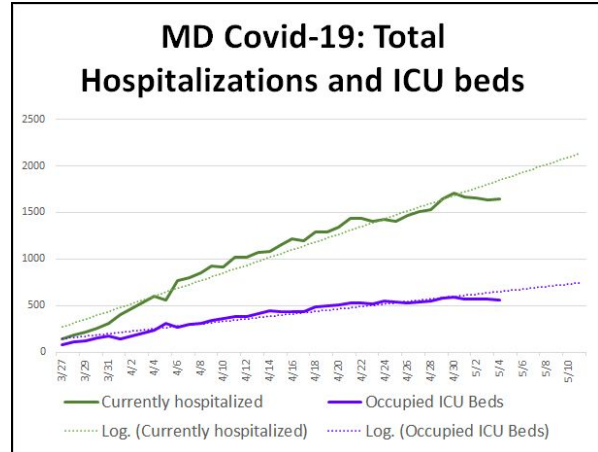
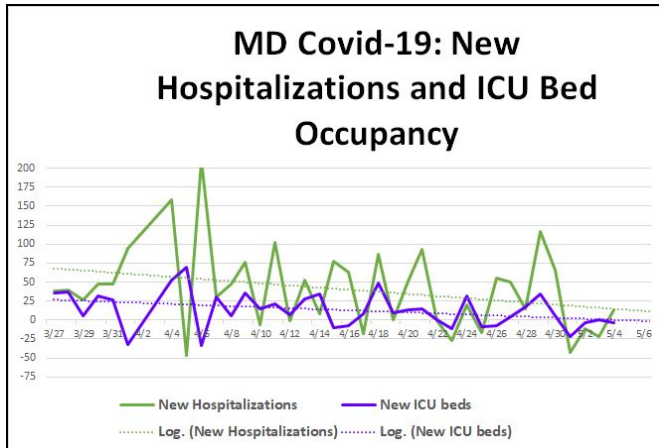


## Daily Coronavirus Update: May 4, 5 PM Congressman David Trone (MD6)

### Stats @ 5 PM

With increased testing capacity coming online in Maryland, Governor Larry Hogan will track trends in **hospitalizations** and **ICU beds** for indicators on when to initiate plans to reopen the state.



MD6 today: MoCo (5,384), Fred.(1,038), Wash.(237), Allegany (126), Garrett (4). MD reports 1,216 total deaths ([MD Dept. of Health](#)).

As of 5 PM today, the United States had recorded 1,177,784 total confirmed cases and 68,442 deaths due to Coronavirus ([JHU](#)).

## Federal Updates

- For the first time in its 230-year history, the **U.S. Supreme Court broadcast its proceedings live today**. Several media outlets, including C-SPAN, CNN, and CNBC streamed the proceedings. According to [CNBC](#), activists and lawmakers have pushed unsuccessfully for years for public live streaming of Supreme Court arguments. The coronavirus finally persuaded the justices to make a change. A few weeks ago, the justices agreed to a live audio broadcast for 10 arguments, all via teleconference, in the first two weeks of May. The [Court's schedule for the next two weeks](#) includes four cases involving President Trump.
- The U.S. Senate returned to full session @ 3 PM today and following Leader remarks, will begin debate on the nomination of Robert Feitel to be Inspector General of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). A final confirmation vote is expected today. [Bloomberg Government](#) reports that the House is expected to be fully back to work starting next week. Business to be addressed for the remainder of the 116th Congress includes: additional recovery packages for state and local governments, businesses, and individual taxpayers; possible funding for infrastructure – including broadband; support for the U.S. Postal Service; and expanded provisions for voting-by-mail. The Chambers must also fund the federal government and renew Defense programs.
- [The New York Times](#) posted a 19-page briefing today titled [Centers and Disease Control and Prevention Situation Update for a Covid-19 HHS/FEMA VTC](#). The briefing is dated May 2, and provides charts, summaries and statistics that the Times says predicts continued increases in coronavirus cases (up to as many as 200,000 a day) and deaths (up to 3,000 day). NPR reported that the White House pushed back on the document, with White House spokesman Judd Deer saying "This is not a White House document, nor has it been presented to the coronavirus task force or gone through interagency vetting." The statement adds: "The data is not reflective of any of the modeling done by the task force or data that the task force has analyzed. The president's phased guidelines to open up America again are a scientific driven approach that the top health and infectious disease experts in the federal government agreed with. The health of the American people remains President Trump's top priority and that will continue as we monitor the efforts by states to ease restrictions."

## Maryland Updates

- Over the weekend, dozens of Marylanders demonstrated Saturday against Gov. Larry Hogan's stay-at-home order, embarking on a caravan from Western Maryland to the lower Eastern Shore. As reported in [The Baltimore Sun](#), the ReOpen Maryland group planned the protest against the governor's mandates after holding one in downtown Annapolis last month. Congressman Andy Harris addressed the demonstrators in support of their efforts. Later Del. Dan Cox, a Frederick Republican, joined several churches and businesses in a lawsuit asking that Hogan's restrictions be invalidated, as they allegedly violate their rights to travel, free speech, and assembly.

## District Updates

- Montgomery County
  - a. The Montgomery County Council has unanimously approved a \$250,000 special appropriation to provide grants to businesses and non-profit organizations that incurred teleworking costs to retain employees during the public health crisis. Councilmember Friedson, who is a member of the Planning Housing and Economic Development Committee, spearheaded this appropriation which was sponsored by the entire Council.
  - b. Montgomery County has outlined plans to protect nursing home residents and staff. Gov. Hogan recently ordered the Maryland Department of Health to publish data regarding COVID-19 cases and fatalities in nursing homes. According to the data, Montgomery County has been most affected by

COVID-19 cases and deaths in nursing homes in the state of Maryland. The county has seen a total of 1,203 confirmed cases and 164 deaths due to COVID-19 in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. In Montgomery County, there are 303 long-term care facilities, including nursing homes, assisted living facilities and large group homes for the elderly. As a result, Montgomery County health officials seek to adopt preventive measures to protect the vulnerable population. Action Teams, comprised of public health nurses and disease investigation staff, will work with facilities to help combat COVID-19 and enhance infection control procedures.

- c. As of Monday, the Maryland Department of Health reports 5,384 cases of COVID-19 in Montgomery County, which is an increase of 234 cases from the 5,150 reported Sunday. The health department reports that 274 county residents have died from COVID-19. This is an increase of 6 deaths since Sunday. The number of probable deaths is 27. There are 1,099 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in residents and staff of senior living facilities and 149 deaths in the county. This is unchanged since Friday.

- Frederick County

- a. About 250 cars gathered in the parking lot of Francis Scott Key Mall on Saturday morning, preparing to head out for the Cross State Reopen Maryland Rally (mentioned above).
- b. The National Museum of Civil War Medicine decided to close its doors before it was required to do so. Executive Director David Price knew with a ban on travel and more people wary of leaving their house, it wouldn't be worth it to stay open. But since March 17, when the museum closed its doors, it's been working on an initiative to take the museum virtual. They had already been working on enhancing their online presence to help bring more people into the museum. But they expected their plan to take two years to execute. Now, they had to do it in two weeks, and without the payoff of the increased in-museum traffic they had originally anticipated. "So we took a real hard analytical look at what resources we had online and discovered that we had a lot of work to do and a lot of work to do fast," Price said. "Because we also knew that schools would soon be closed and teachers would be hungry for ... lesson plans for them to teach remotely."

- Washington County

- a. Another person in Washington County has died from COVID-19, the Maryland Health Department reported Sunday. The health department said coronavirus deaths in the county increased from five to six. No other details were available. Total positive cases in the county went from 229 to 232, the health department said.
- b. One of Washington County's largest employers began a program about a month ago to protect employee pay during the COVID-19 pandemic by offering most of its workers an opportunity to redeploy to other duties. Of Meritus Health's 2,950 employees, 75%, or 2,200, are eligible for the Paid Protection Program that began April 5, according to spokeswoman Joelle Butler. More than 550 employees had been redeployed as of Saturday. The pandemic has been "tough financially on everyone in the country, certainly health care providers. Our workforce is our community," Meritus Health President and CEO Maulik Joshi said in a phone interview.

- Allegany County

- a. Three more Allegany County residents have died from complications of COVID-19, and a resident at a Frostburg nursing home has tested positive for the disease, Allegany County health officials said Saturday evening. The three victims include a female community member, a male resident of the Cumberland Healthcare Center and a female community member who had recently been released from the Cumberland facility. All three had underlying medical conditions, health officials said. Twelve county residents have died from the disease. Health officials said a resident of Sterling Frostburg Village tested positive for COVID-19, the first case involving a facility resident. A staff member had previously tested positive. At least 74 residents and 18 staff members of the Cumberland Healthcare Center have tested positive for the coronavirus.

- b. Maryland is expanding its COVID-19 testing to Hagerstown in Washington County with the opening of a new drive-thru site Tuesday. Gov. Larry Hogan announced Monday that the new testing site will be at Hagerstown's Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP) station at 12100 Insurance Way, No. 5176. It is the first state-run drive-thru testing site in Western Maryland.
- Garrett County
  - a. Garrett County officials met recently with local real estate agents to discuss different ways to reopen rental units when given the green light by Gov. Larry Hogan. Hogan's recovery plan will roll out in a series of stages. The first stage is allowing "low risk" activities to begin, followed by, as benchmarks of progress are met, allowing "medium risk" and eventually "high risk" activities to take place. The governor's stated goal is to gradually and responsibly reopen the economy while protecting the public health. Depending on the plan submitted, the companies would fall in either the low or medium risk category, said County Health Officer Robert Stephens. The plans included discussions of initial cleaning and sanitation, ongoing cleaning and sanitation of indoor and outdoor environments and messaging to renters and owners regarding risks.
  - b. Garrett County Public Schools has announced its current contingency plans for senior events. "This has been an incredibly difficult time for all of our students, but our seniors have likely been impacted the most," said Superintendent Barbara Baker in a letter to parents and families. She noted that many events have been canceled that are special not only for students, but also for parents, grandparents and siblings.